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161.1750 The Lodi Excursion, Seen from Glacier Rock, Lake Lucerne, Switzerland. Copyright 1904 by Underwood & Underwood.

You are near the upper end of Lake Lucerne, on its eastern side, looking southward along the famous highway blasted out of the cliffs along the shore. Parallel with this carriage road, but lower down, near the lake, another shelf hewn out of the cliffs holds the tracks of the St. Gotthard Railway, running from Lucerne (behind you) over and through the mountains into Italy.

"It is a dizzy height as we lean out over the lake and you see the rocks above actually overhang the road ahead. Until about forty years ago the only way to traverse this region was by painful and dangerous climbing over high cliffs and ice slopes up and down and around all sorts of obstacles, multiplying the air-line distance into something many times greater, and spending days instead of hours in difficult progress on foot with some patient mule to help carry burdens.

"Italy is beyond those mountains. The clouds we see rolling up from the south may be bringing Mediterranean waters up here into Switzerland to be turned into ice and snow. Here in the mountain land we are perpetually reminded of the great forces of nature and how they work to put the world in shape.

"See how wonderfully the city distance between us and those far mountains makes them successively paler and farther off at last we can hardly tell what is cloud and what is solid mountain."

(See "Switzerland Through the Stereoscope" with special, keyed maps locating all the standpoints taken and identifying all the landmarks.)

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The Gold Absolute Lake Lucerne, Switzerland.

La superbe Aarbetrasse, Lac de Lucerne, Suisse.

Die Prachtstraße beim Vierwald-Stätter See in der Schweiz.

La soberbia Autostrada, Lago de Lucerna, Suiza.

Den vilde Automobilvej, Lucernesøen, Schweiz.

Автомобильное озеро Люцернъ, Швейцария.